This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-175 (Canceled

Claim 176 (Previously presented): In a networked client-server environment, apparatus for use in conjunction with a digital rights management system, the apparatus comprising:

a client computer connected to the network, the client computer having:

a processor;

a memory having computer executable instructions stored therein; and

an enforcer, contained within the digital rights management system, for controlling use of watermarked software objects, wherein the enforcer stores a predefined watermark key which defines a specific one of a plurality of identical watermarks embedded in the watermarked software object with different watermark keys to be used by the enforcer in subsequently controlling use of each one of said watermarked software objects, and wherein the predefined watermark key expires after a predefined period of time elapses since said predefined watermark key was initially stored in the enforcer;

wherein the processor, in response to the stored executable instructions:

establishes a network connection to a watermark key;

issues a request to the server for a new watermark key; and

utilizes either the predefined watermark key or the new

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watermark key, as received from the server, for the predefined watermark key for subsequent use in controlling access to the watermarked software objects until such time as the predefined key has expired after which the new watermark key is used instead; and

the server, connected to the network, which, in response to the request:

selects, if the predefined watermark key has not been revoked for the client computer, another one of predefined plurality of predetermined watermark keys for use in controlling access to the software watermarks objects as the new watermark key;

sends the new watermark key to the client computer; and

if the predefined watermark key has been revoked, does not supply the new watermark key to the client computer.

Claim 177 (Original): The apparatus in claim 176 wherein the network connection comprises a secure connection.

Claim 178 (Original): The apparatus in claim 177 wherein the server is associated with a publisher of any one of the watermarked software objects or a vendor of said one object, or a watermarking authority.

Claim 179 (Original): The apparatus in claim 178 wherein:

the client computer, in response to the stored instructions and in conjunction with the request, also supplies the server with an existing certificate for predefined public key associated with the client computer; and

the server, if the existing certificate for the public key has not been revoked by the server, provides the client computer with the new watermark key.

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Claim 180 (Previously presented): In a networked client-server environment, a method for use in conjunction with a digital rights management system,

in a client computer connected to a network, the client computer having: a processor; a memory having computer executable instructions stored therein; and an enforcer, contained within the digital rights management system, for controlling use of watermarked software objects, wherein the enforcer stores a predefined watermark key which defines a specific one of a plurality of identical watermarks embedded in the watermarked software object with different watermark keys to be used by the enforcer in subsequently controlling use of each one of said watermarked software objects, and wherein the watermark key expires after a predefined period of time elapses since said key was initially stored in the enforcer; wherein the method comprises the steps, upon expiration of the watermark key, performed by the processor, in response to the stored executable instructions, of:

establishing a network connection to a server;

issuing a request to the server for a new watermark key; and

utilizes either the predefined watermark key or the new watermark key, as received from the server, for the predefined watermark key for subsequent use in controlling access to the watermarked software objects until such time as the predefined watermark key has expired after which the new watermark key is used instead; and

in the server, connected to the network and, in response to the request, the steps of:

selecting, only if the predefined watermark key has not been revoked for the client computer, another one of a predefined plurality of predetermined watermark keys for use in controlling access to the software watermarks objects as the new watermark key;

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sending the new watermark key to the client computer; and

if the predefined watermark key has been revoked, not sending the new watermark key to the client computer.

Claim 181 (Original): The method in claim 180 wherein the network connection comprises a secure connection.

Claim 182 (Original): The method in claim 181 wherein the server is associated with a publisher of any one of the watermarked software objects or a vendor of said one object, or a watermarking authority.

Claim 183 (Original): The method in claim 182 further comprising the steps of:

in the client computer and in response to the stored instructions and in conjunction with the request:

supplying the server with an existing certificate for a predefined public the client computer; and

in the server, if the existing key associated with certificate for the public key has not been revoked by the server, providing the client computer with a new certificate, for the new watermark key.

Claim 184 (Previously presented): In a networked client-server environment, apparatus for obtaining a watermark key for use in a digital rights management system, the apparatus comprising:

a client computer connected to the network, the client computer having:

a processor;

a memory having computer executable instructions stored therein; and

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an enforcer, contained within the digital rights management system, for controlling use of watermarked software objects, wherein the enforcer is capable of storing a predefined watermark key which defines a specific one of a plurality of identical watermarks embedded in the watermarked software object with different watermark keys to be used by the enforcer in subsequently controlling use of each one of said watermarked software objects;

wherein, if the enforcer does not then possess the watermark key, the processor, in response to the stored executable instructions:

establishes a network connection to a server;

issues a request to the server for a watermark key; and

stores the watermark key, received from the server, within the enforcer for subsequent use in controlling access to watermarked software objects; and

the server, connected to the network, which, in response to the request:

selects, one of the a predefined plurality of predetermined watermark keys for use in controlling access to the software watermarked objects as the watermark key;

downloads the watermark key to the client computer.

Claim 185 (Original): The apparatus in claim 184 wherein the request contains a public key associated with the client computer and

the server, in response to the request:

encrypts the watermark key using the public key of the client computer so as to yield the encrypted key; and

downloads the encrypted key to the client computer as the watermark key; and

the client computer:

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upon receipt of the watermark key, decrypts the encrypted key using a private key associated with the client computer so as to yield a decrypted key;

and stores the decrypted key as the watermark key.

Claim 186 (Original): The apparatus in claim 185 wherein the network connection comprises a secure connection.

Claim 187 (Original): The apparatus in claim 186 wherein the server is associated with a publisher of any one of the watermarked software objects or a vendor of said one object, or a watermarking authority.

Claim 188 (Previously presented): In a networked client-server environment, a method for obtaining a watermark key for use in a digital rights management system,

in a client computer connected to a network, the client computer having: a processor; a memory having computer executable instructions stored therein; and an enforcer, contained within the digital rights management system, for controlling use of watermarked software objects, wherein the enforcer is capable of storing a predefined watermark key which defines a specific one of a plurality of identical watermarks embedded in the watermarked software object with different watermark keys to be used by the enforcer in subsequently controlling use of each one of said watermarked software objects; wherein the method comprises the steps, performed by the processor if the enforcer does not then possess the watermark key and in response to the stored executable instructions, of:

establishing a network connection to a server;

issuing a request to the server for a watermark key; and

storing the watermark key, received from the server, within the

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enforcer for subsequent use in controlling access to watermarked software objects; and in the server, connected to the network and in response to the request:

selecting, one of a predefined plurality of predetermined watermark keys for use in controlling access to the software watermarked objects as the watermark key;

downloading the watermark key to the client computer.

Claim 189 (Original): The method in claim 188, wherein the request contains a public key associated with the client computer, comprising the steps of:

in the server, in response to the request:

encrypting the watermark key using the public key of the client computer so as to yield the encrypted key; and

downloading the encrypted key to the client computer as the watermark key; and

in the processor, in response to the stored instructions:

upon receipt of the watermark key, decrypting the encrypted key using a private key associated with the client computer so as to yield a decrypted key; and

storing the decrypted key as the watermark key.

Claim 190 (Original): The method in claim 189 wherein the network connection comprises a secure connection.

Claim 191 (Original): The method in claim 190 wherein the server is associated with a publisher of any one of the watermarked or a software objects or a vendor of said one object, watermarking authority.

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